

ment to say that they cannot understand why the Administration should be so stupid as to bring forward the question of the Legislative Council? He contended that there was far and near a general disapprobation of the manner in which the proceedings of the Legislative Council were carried on, and the elective principle had been declared more than once in speeches from the throne to be necessary, in order to give the body a respectable standing, and to enable the country to respect its decisions in them. Why then was the Administration not grappling with the question? Last session they brought it in at the 11th hour. On all the questions on which the Administration felt keenly, and which they desired to carry, they went heart and soul into them. But the Legislative Council Bill was differently dealt with. It was passed at the eleventh hour, and being sent to the Upper House was then buried. And now, if they were really in earnest, why did they not carry it out in earnest, why did they not silence their organs, and prevent them from speaking in opposition to the measure? (Hear, hear.) Then what had taken place in reference to the Franchise? There had been no legislation upon it with the exception of one amendment made last session by the Attorney General. Was that carrying out the policy of the late Administration as they avowed their intention of doing? Then with regard to education, he would ask whether the legislation on the school question had given satisfaction to the country? Last year, at the instigation of certain parties who desired to have separate schools, they brought in a measure, but that measure was so curtailed that it gave satisfaction neither to Catholics on the one side nor to Reformers on the other. Was that carrying out the policy of the late Administration? In the first place there was a recommendation in vague terms in reference to a change in the Constitution of the Legislative Council. On that point he had already spoken. Then there was to be a Police Bill. This formed a portion of the scheme of which the Militia Bill was another part, and as they found that a very difficult task to carry through, they dropped the Police Bill altogether. But now they came down and asked powers to establish a Provincial Police. What evidence was there of the necessity of this? What petitions had come in for it? What manifestations of public opinion had there been for a scheme which would necessarily be dangerous to the liberty and freedom of the people of this country? (Hear, hear.) It was said that it was necessary to put down riots. To say so was an insult to the people of this country, and a stigma on their character. He could not doubt for a moment that the creation of patronage was the real reason for establishing this idle Police force. (Hear, hear.) For idle it must be in a country like Canada. During the whole operations of the Grand Truck, west of Kingston, bringing together large bodies of labourers, there had not been a single disturbance; and there had been equally little necessity in the Ottawa District to put down riots. They should be very careful about giving the Government powers to establish a Rural Police. In Ireland, with a population at variance with each other on account of religious animosities, such a system was necessary, but in Canada it was very different.

EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.

Arrival of the "Atlantic."

New York, Feb. 21. The Atlantic arrived off Sandy Hook at 10 o'clock last night, and came to her dock at this A. M. She experienced strong westerly gales 10 days successively and was three days in large fields of ice. She brings no news of the Pacific.

Peace apparently progressing favourably. Preliminary protocol was signed at Vienna on the 1st by the representatives of France, England and Turkey.

Russia and Austria agree to open the conference at Paris within three weeks. Clarendon is appointed English plenipotentiary.

There is a doubtful report that the Emperor of Russia and Austria will visit France during the Conference.

The protocol preliminary to the Congress of Paris, has been definitely signed and matters are progressing favourably in the direction of peace.

No news of interest from the Crimea or from Asia.

The last of the docks of Sebastopol has been destroyed.

An armistice by land only will doubtless be signed to last until the end of March.

With respect to the war of words carried on between the English and American Press, a New York Paper says:—"The most important news is that which relates to a report in England on the subject of war with the U. S. It was again confidently reported on the Liverpool Exchange that the American Minister had demanded his passport, and his absence from Lady Palmerston's source was attributed to the personal animosity existing between Clarendon and himself."

We have no particulars of the misunderstanding on the English papers maintain complete silence on the subject. Clarendon, however, is reported to have spoken in an important manner to Buchanan, which Mr. B. promptly checked by closing the interview.

It is reported that France and England have sent troops to Brazil to seek to nullify the interests of that country against the interests of the U. S. in Central America.

In the meantime the general tone of the English is threatening towards the U. S.—Purely Commercial presses form an exception, and the Chambers of Commerce both at Manchester and Liverpool protest earnestly against any interruption to the amicable relations of the two countries.

The funds have been unsettled and depressed by the threatening aspect of affairs. The following is an extract from a leader in the Times:

"We expect to hear every day, that our Minister at Washington has received his dismissal and is on his way home—that of course will compel similar proceedings on our part with regard to the American Minister, and Mr. Clarendon, and Mr. Buchanan, two influential gentlemen representing their governments at Washington and London will probably cross each other on the Atlantic."

After deploring the existence of this domestic quarrel it says:

"England has really apologized enough to satisfy her European neighbours. We cannot hold her responsible for the arrangements. The Americans must reckon on our obstinate resistance if they drive us to it. Let them count the cost when they take any fatal step; else after two or three . . . they will make their calculations in vain."

The Manchester chamber of commerce held its annual meeting on Monday the 4th inst., when the following resolution proposed by John Bright M. P. was moved by the Mayor of Manchester and unanimously adopted:

"That this Chamber has observed with deep regret that difficulties have arisen between the British Government and the Government of the U. S. with regard to the con-

struction of a treaty on the subject of Central America, and the attempts which are alleged to have been made to enlist men to the British Army within the jurisdiction of the U. S. The Chamber would urgently impress upon the Government of this country the propriety of considering these questions in a conciliatory spirit with a strong determination to settle alike to the United Kingdom and the United States the indiscreet actions which must arise from an interruption of amicable relations between the two countries."

The resolution was unanimously agreed to. Mr. Bright made a good speech on the occasion.

Letters by the India and China mail are to hand. The only noticeable article of news additional to that published, is that trial of Mr. Keenan, American Consul of Hong Kong, is postponed on account of the sickness of the Chief Justice.

The London *Despatch* says a good deal of pardonable irritation is felt here that the sympathies of a resolute people should be so unaccountably manifested during the present war, in behalf of the main-slay and the heel-annal of European despotism; and if the Republic of the United States permits their rulers to plunge into a war with Great Britain, they would receive the most terrible lesson ever administered to national envy and quarrelsomeness.

The Paris *Journal des Debats* has a long and laboured editorial to prove that up to the present point, the interests of France and England are identical, but that a continuance of the war either in the Baltic or in Asia would only subvert the private interests of England.

General Prince Paskewitch died at Warsaw on the 1st February.

The chairman of the Liverpool Chambers of Commerce, at the annual meeting of the Chamber, spoke in strong terms against any interruption of friendly relations between the two countries.

Other members expressed the same sentiments, but the Chamber did not adopt a formal resolution on the subject.

LONDON, Tuesday evening.—Variation in the fund-to-day unimportant. Business limited. Market steady, but less buoyant in consequence of preparation for settlement of accounts.

In consols at Paris to-day the French funds closed about the same as yesterday.

LONDON, Wednesday.—Letters from Hamburg dated on the 3rd, state that eleven cargoes of sulphur, three of saltpetre, and two of lead arrived there during the week—several of them British ships, and all of them half way en route to Russia.

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.—Breadstuffs were much depressed. Wheat about four pence per bushel lower, and Flour is much declined. Indian Corn did not show so much decline. Beef, Pork and Lard dull. Bacon firm and in fair demand. Money tight, demand great. There has been some arrivals of Australian Gold, but it was likely to be reported. Consols were weak closing at 90-1/2 a 90-5/8.

Arrival of the "Asia."

New York, Feb. 21.

The steamer Asia from Liverpool on the morning of the 9th, has arrived, bringing 50 passengers. She brings but little news of importance to add to the Atlantic's advices.

There was a severe storm on the English coast on the night of the 7th. Many American vessels were damaged.

The London *Morning Advertiser* states that Sir H. Bulwer had indicated that he would like to act as a sort of mediator between the British Government and Buchanan.

This movement is said to be at the desire of Palmerston. An interview was to take place at the Embassy, when Bulwer would explain the compromise at length to Buchanan, which he is prepared to recommend. All other papers maintain profound silence on this matter.

The peace plenipotentiaries were beginning to assemble at Paris.

The British steam frigate *Palmerston* was totally lost on the north-west coast of Japan.

In the House of Commons Lord Palmerston in answer to an enquiry from Cobden, said the correspondence of the American Government on Central American affairs would, when completed, be laid before Parliament. Mr. Bailey remarked that he would postpone motions of which he had given notice, relative to enlistment in the United States, until the correspondence was made public.

LONDON, Friday evening.—Funds firm, closing 3d higher than yesterday's prices.

LONDON, Saturday morning.—The Times censures the course taken by both English and American Cabinets in reference to existing difficulties, and after remarking that even the humanity we have shown must have its limits, concludes as follows: "We are as desirous for peace as Mr. Cobden can be, but we know that when a nation becomes too proud to listen to reason, the only appeal is to arms."

The steamer Asia brings presents consisting of plate, medals, &c., for the officers and crews of the Kaitia Anti-Expedition.

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.—Flour easier—Oatmeal 4s 6d; Western Corn 3s 11d; Wheat 5s 6d a 9d Red;—10s 9d a 11s 10d for white Indian Corn.—Michigan declined, nominally 35s. Money in England more stringent. American Stocks lower. Consols 91-1/4.

The Queen's Speech.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Since the close of the last Session of Parliament the arms of the Allies have achieved a signal and important success. Sebastopol, the great stronghold of Russia, in the Black Sea, has yielded to the persevering constancy and to the daring bravery of the allied forces.

The naval and military preparations for the ensuing year have now nearly completed their various details; but while determined to omit no effort which could give vigour to the operations of the war, I have deemed it my duty not to decline any overtures which might reasonably afford a prospect of a safe and honourable peace.

Accordingly, when the Emperor of Austria lately offered to myself and to my ally the Emperor of France, to employ his good offices with the Emperor of Russia, with a view to endeavour to bring about an amicable adjustment of the matters at issue between the contending powers, I consented, in concert with my allies, to accept the offer thus made; and I have the satisfaction to inform you that certain conditions have been agreed upon which, I hope, may prove the foundation of a general treaty of peace.

Negotiations for such a treaty will shortly be opened in Paris.

In conducting these negotiations, I shall be careful not to lose sight of the objects for which the war was undertaken, and I shall deem it right in no degree to relax my naval and military preparations until a satisfactory treaty of peace will have been concluded.

Although the war in which I am engaged was brought on by events in the south of Europe, my attention has not been withdrawn from the state of things in the north, and in conjunction with the Emperor of

France I have concluded with the King of Sweden and Norway a treaty containing defensive engagements applicable to his dominions, and tending to the preservation of the balance of power in that part of Europe.

I have also concluded a treaty of friendship, commerce, and navigation, with the republic of Chili. I have given orders that these treaties shall be laid before you.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons.

The estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you. You will find them framed in such a manner as to provide for the exigencies of war if peace should unfortunately not be concluded.

My Lords and Gentlemen:—

It is gratifying to me to observe that, notwithstanding the pressure of the war, and the burdens and sacrifices which it has unavoidably imposed upon my people, the resources of my empire remain unimpaired.

I rely, with confidence, on the loyalty and enlightened patriotism of my loyal subjects, and on the continuance of that support which they have so nobly afforded me, and they may be assured that I shall not call upon them for exertions beyond what may be required by a due regard for the great interests, the honour, and the dignity of the empire.

There are many subjects connected with internal improvement which I recommend to your attentive consideration.

The difference which exists in several important particulars between the commercial laws of Scotland and those of the other parts of the United Kingdom, has occasioned inconvenience to a large portion of my subjects engaged in trade. Measures will be proposed to you for removing these evils.

Measures will also be proposed to you for improving the laws relating to partnership, by simplifying those laws and thus rendering more easy the employment of capital in commerce.

The system under which merchant shipping is liable to pay legal dues and passing tolls has been the subject of much complaint. Measures will be proposed to you for affording relief in regard to those matters.

Other important measures for improving the law in Great Britain and in Ireland will be proposed to you, which, I doubt not, will receive your attentive consideration.

Upon these, and all other matters upon which you may deliberate, I fervently pray that the blessing of Divine Providence may favour your councils, and guide them to the promotion of the great objects of my unvarying solicitude—the welfare and the happiness of my people.

At the conclusion of the speech her Majesty left the House and returned to Buckingham Palace in the order in which she came from it.

The House then adjourned until five o'clock.

Extract from Lord Clarendon's Speech.

With respect to the negotiation for peace, I am sure that your lordships will feel that it would be indiscreet in me on the present occasion to give your lordships more information upon the subject than I should be strictly justified in doing; and I think as the gracious speech of her Majesty has indicated the course which has been pursued, that I need hardly and that her Majesty's government, fully relying on the support of parliament and the people of this country, had intended and were prepared to carry on the war with much greater means than they have hitherto possessed.

Her Majesty's government were distinguished to us by overtures of peace, and they were all along anxious to bring the war to a satisfactory conclusion. It certainly was not for England and France to make any overtures to Russia; and I think we can understand, and I had almost said, can respect the motives which induced Russia not to make overtures to us; but Austria was in a position to proffer her good offices, and the time that she chose for doing it was an excellent one, when the approach of winter rendered the cessation of hostilities necessary.

But it was no mediation which Austria offered. She simply offered to ascertain the terms upon which the allies would consent to peace; and I must say that from the first, they admitted the necessity that those terms should be clear and precise, in order to do away as much as possible with the chance of misapprehension, and by avoiding those misunderstandings and complications which have had last year, to bring the negotiations to a successful issue. It was impossible for her Majesty's government according to their sense of duty, to refuse those good offices.

(Hear, hear.) However confident they might have been that another campaign would have increased the military power of England and might have led to a treaty of a different and more comprehensive character, such anticipations would have been wholly unjustifiable if they had induced us to prolong the war when a prospect appeared of attaining the objects for which that war was undertaken; and notwithstanding the spirit which now animates this country, I believe that the cool judgment and right reason of the people of England will approve the course which we have taken. (Hear, hear.)

The original proposal of Austria was to communicate these terms to Russia, on her own responsibility; but we saw that it would be useless for Austria to send those terms to Russia, and here let me say that there were no disrespect intended either to Austria or to Turkey by omitting them from the Queen's speech. We are deeply sensible of the courage which Austria has exhibited, and of the manner in which she embarked on the contest, and in which she has carried out her engagements; but we thought that it was simply necessary for Her Majesty to declare that, in concert with her allies, she had consented to accept the good offices of Austria with the Emperor of Russia. Austria, however, became a party to the terms in question, and she is therefore responsible for them, and the interest in them rests with her.

It is not necessary to break off her diplomatic relations with Russia if they were rejected, and afterwards to consent with the allies as to the means of coercing Russia. Those terms were sent by the Austrian Minister to St. Petersburg; he was to ask for a categorical answer—yes or no. He was simply the bearer of a despatch; he was forbidden to discuss its contents, and he was on no account, to admit any modifications or counter-propositions whatever. The answer of Russia was transmitted direct to Vienna. It was not in the form required by Austria, but contained some very important modifications, and the Austrian Government thereupon informed the Russian Minister at Vienna that unless a categorical answer were received within a stated period, the Austrian Minister, with the whole of the mission at St. Petersburg, would leave that city, and passports would be sent to the Russian Legation at Vienna. That was communicated by Prince Gortchakoff to his government, upon which an acceptance, pure and simple, was sent by telegraph to Vienna. The despatches containing it arrived at Vienna on the 24th instant, and the Russian Minister at St. Petersburg, Her Majesty's Government the day before yesterday, and the plan which is proposed to be adopted is this: That the terms which have been accepted by Russia shall be agreed to by the representatives of the allies at Vienna; that the representatives shall

then sign a short protocol, agreeing that the preliminaries shall be signed at Paris; that an armistice shall be entered upon, and that the provisions of the treaty shall then be determined. Although I shall not enter further at present into the terms or duration of the armistice, and think that it would be right to discuss it at this time, yet I must take the opportunity of saying, that I can only agree with the noble earl opposite, that it should be of the shortest possible duration. (Hear, hear.)

I have now informed your lordships of the present state of affairs, and I will not deny that great doubt and anxiety are entertained as to the result. It is impossible to deny that doubt is felt as to the sincerity with which Russia may have accepted the conditions. The very readiness with which she has shown in accepting them has increased that doubt, and the manner in which she proceeded last year, after having purely and simply accepted the terms then proposed, has still further added to it. We can only rely on the fact that she is sincere—for my part I believe that she is. I think that Russia desires a peace, and I think that the Emperor of Russia has shown great courage in at once accepting terms which he has reason to believe are displeasing to the war party in Russia. (Hear, hear.) I hope he will continue to exhibit the same moral courage, and that he will, without any attempt at evasion, abide by the letter and spirit of these terms. Should he do so, I think we have a prospect of speedily obtaining that which has throughout been the object of the war—a safe and honourable peace. (Hear, hear.)

By an honourable peace, I mean a peace which will be honourable to both parties, and a peace which will not degrade Russia, and will not place a very safe peace upon her. She must be aware that Russia has not accepted terms which will not stain upon her. She must be aware that her aggressive policy which has been implied to her is the cause of alarm and irritation in Europe, and that it will be resisted; and that account that she has been required, and has consented, to give guarantee for maintaining the independence of the Ottoman empire. I say there is no dishonor or degradation cast upon Russia by the acceptance of these terms; the only dishonor will be in the evasion of them. (Hear, hear.)

But my lords, our sincerity in these negotiations is also called into question. Your lordships may probably be aware, that throughout the continent of Europe we are accused of insincerity in accepting these conditions. It has been said that, though we have accepted them, we mean to continue the war, simply because we want more war for any definite end, and in the expectation that another campaign would be productive of more military glory, which would serve to compensate us for the sacrifices we have made. I mention these reports, because they have been widely circulated, and greatly and usually believed, and also because I desire on the part of her Majesty's Government to give to them the most unqualified denial. (Cheers.)

However much we may be aware of the spirit which animates the country, however much it may be regretted that the vast preparations which we have made—preparations such as there has been no instance of before in this country—should not be termed to account, and should not be made to rebound to the military and naval armaments of England, yet I am convinced that the number of persons who put faith in these reports will be very rapidly diminished when it is seen that notwithstanding all the efforts we have made, and all the sacrifices we have undergone, we hold faithfully, to the conditions which we have once accepted. But should any attempt be made to deprive us of the conditions which we have already agreed, then I believe the people of this country would be as one man. They would not consider any sacrifices too great to carry on a war, and we might then expect operations of a very different nature to those which her Majesty's government have now accepted, and to which they will frankly and honourably adhere. (Cheers.)

There is another reason which has induced me to allude to these reports, and I hope it is not presumptuous in me to allude to it, as it is of a personal nature. Her Majesty has been pleased to desire that I should go to Paris to negotiate on her behalf. (Hear, hear.) However gladly I should have declined this honor, and I have ever unreservedly and distinctly and openly avowed my unwillingness to undertake such a mission, and I have ever unreservedly and distinctly and openly avowed my unwillingness to undertake such a mission, and I have ever unreservedly and distinctly and openly avowed my unwillingness to undertake such a mission. (Hear, hear.)

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